

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /081 W

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R 171801Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8971

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

WMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: CAMPAIGNING IN THE RUHR - "OUT OF LOVE FOR
GERMANY, FREEDOM INSTEAD OF SOCIALISM"

REF: BONN 08297

BEGIN SUMMARY: OVER THE WEEKEND LEADING CDU/CSU POLITIC-
IANS BROUGHT THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR THE OCTOBER 3 BUNDESTAG
ELECTIONS INTO VOTE -- RICH NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA.

PLAYING WITH THE TWIN THEMES OF NATIONALISM AND A FREE
SOCIETY, THE CDU CAMPAIGN SEEMS TO BE ACCURATELY
EXEMPLIFIED IN THE NEW, RATHER CUMBERSOME SLOGAN -- "OUT

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OF LOVE FOR GERMANY, FREEDOM INSTEAD OF SOCIALISM."

END SUMMARY.

1. MORE THAN A THOUSAND OF THE FAITHFUL GATHERED IN THE STADTHALLE IN WUPPERTAL TO HEAR SPEECHES BY CDU GENERAL SECRETARY BIEDENKOPF AND HESSE CDU CHAIRMAN DREGGER. IN INTRODUCING BIEDENKOPF, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL HEAD THE CDU LANDLIST FOR NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA. ON THE ECONOMY, BIEDENKOPF DESCRIBED SPD ECONOMIC POLICY AS BEING PRIMARILY IDEOLOGICAL. ITS PURPOSE IS TO BRING ABOUT AN ECONOMIC CONCENTRATION AND CENTRALIZATION WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY LEAD TO THE CONSTRICTION OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FREEDOM. BIEDENKOPF CLOSED WITH A SHARP ATTACK ON THE FDP. "WE MUST NOT FORGET IT WAS THE FREE DEMOCRATS WHO GAVE THE SPD ITS CHANCE TO DESTROY OUR PAST EFFORTS TO PUT THINGS IN ORDER." INTRODUCED AS GERMANY'S NEXT INTERIOR MINISTER AND GREETED BY A LOUD ROAR, DREGGER GAVE THE CROWD WHAT IT WANTED. UNDER A RED, WHITE, AND GREEN BANNER "OUT OF LOVE FOR GERMANY" AND ON THE THEME "DOES THE WEST HAVE A CHANCE?", HE SAID HE HAD LEARNED TWO THINGS IN THE RECENT BUNDESTAG BUDGET DEBATES, REFTEL. "WE MUST SPEAK GERMAN " -- AN IDIOM FOR BEING HONEST -- "AND WE MUST ALSO SPEAK GERMAN WITHOUT FOREIGN WORDS." AFTER A CATECHISM OF DISASTER INCLUDING VIET NAM, ANGOLA, THE MILITARY IMBALANCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND ITALY, DREGGER FELT THE WEST STILL DID HAVE A CHANCE BUT ONLY IF IT DEVELOPED A SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL WILL TO MATCH ITS ECONOMIC SUPERIORITY. THIS COULD ONLY OCCUR IN A FREE SOCIETY AND UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP. AS FOR SCHMIDT, DREGGER WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS "SICK."

2. IN BOTTROP AT THE CONGRESS OF THE SCHUELER-UNION AND THE JUNGE UNION, THE CDU/CSU YOUTH GROUPS, THE SPEAKERS INCLUDED KOHL, BIEDENKOPF, AND STRAUSS. WARMLY, IF SOMEWHAT DUTIFULLY GREETED BY THE DELEGATES, KOHL WORKED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FREEDOM AND SOCIALISM, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF EDUCATION. THE PURPOSE OF SOCIETY SHOULD BE THE PRESERVATION AND EXPANSION OF PERSONAL FREEDOM. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SHOULD SUPPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT END. SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL POLICY ACTUALLY WORKED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. IN THAT CONNECTION, KOHL TRIED OUT THE NEW CDU SLOGAN -- "FREEDOM INSTEAD OF SOCIALISM." UNFORTUNATELY MUCH OF KOHL'S AUDIENCE AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES DISSOLVED INTO AN EXCHANGE OF WHISPERED CONFIDENCES OR INTO COVERT NEWSPAPER READING. SOME OF KOHL'S PROBLEMS AS A CAMPAIGNER WERE DEMONSTRATED WHEN HE LEFT. HE PLUNGED STRAIGHT THROUGH A

CROWD OF SUPPORTERS AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE, AND DROVE OFF ONLY TO STOP FIFTY YARDS DOWN THE ROAD TO GET OUT AND TALK TO A MAN WORKING IN HIS FRONT GARDEN. AFTER SHAKING HANDS THE MAN WENT INSIDE LEAVING KOHL TO WALK UNCERTAINLY DOWN AN EMPTY STREET, THEN GET BACK IN THE CAR, AND DRIVE OFF. THE CROWD OF SUPPORTERS AT A DISTANCE WATCHED IN SILENCE AND BEWILDERMENT.

3. ON SUNDAY THE MAIN EVENT IN BOTTROP WAS STRAUSS. STRAUSS ARRIVED UNDER HEAVY SECURITY -- DEMONSTRATIONS

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HAD BEEN RUMORED BUT NONE OCCURRED -- AND WAS GREETED BY SUSTAINED APPLAUSE BY SOME DELEGATIONS, ESPECIALLY BAVARIA AND BERLIN, AND WITH STUDIED SILENCE BY THE RHINE-LANDERS. IT WAS VINTAGE STRAUSS COMBINING SARCASM, DIALECT, WIT, AND A SLASHING ATTACK ON THE SPD. STRAUSS CONTRASTED SOCIALIST AND FREE EDUCATIONAL POLICY. THE FORMER WAS THE RESULT OF "STONE-AGE SOCIALIST" MINDS AIMED AT SOCIAL CONTROL. THE LATTER WAS DIRECTED AT EXPANDING PERSONAL FREEDOM. STRAUSS CONDEMNED THE USE OF MARXIST-LENINIST MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS AND TERMED "DECEITFUL" SCHMIDT'S PROMISE TO ABOLISH NUMERUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLAUSUS BY 1977. THE SHARPEST ARROWS WERE RESERVED FOR WILLY BRANDT WHO IN STRAUSS' VIEW IS BELOVED BY FOREIGNERS BECAUSE HE DOES NOT STAND UP FOR GERMAN INTERESTS. AT THE END, THE CROWD INCLUDING THE RHINE-LANDERS WAS ON ITS FEET CHEERING.

4. COMMENT: CDU/CSU POLITICIANS ARE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP THEIR TWIN CAMPAIGN THEMES OF BEATING THE NATIONAL DRUM AND PRAISING THE VIRTUES OF A FREE SOCIETY. THE EVOLUTION OF THIS PROCESS IS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE EMERGING TWO-PART SLOGAN -- OUT OF LOVE FOR GERMANY, FREEDOM INSTEAD OF SOCIALISM. HOWEVER CUMBERSOME IT MAY BE, IT DOES DESCRIBE THE CONTENTS OF THE PACKAGE.
HILLENBRAND

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